



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
FSM, State of Chuuk  
FSM, State of Kosrae  
FSM, State of Pohnpei  
FSM, State of Yap  
Island of Guam  
Republic of Kiribati  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Republic of Nauru  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## A RESOLUTION

### Resolution No. 61-BOD-10

**“To respectfully encourage the progression of its Compact of Free Association renegotiations with the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the sovereign states of the Republic of Palau, the Federated  
2 States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (“the Freely  
3 Associated States”) have each entered into an agreement to establish and govern  
4 the relationship between their nation and the United States of America (“Compacts  
5 of Free Association”); specifically, the Compact with the Republic of Palau  
6 entered into force in 1995 and the Compacts with the Federated States of  
7 Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands entered into force in 1986;  
8 and

9           **WHEREAS**, generally, the relationships that have been established under  
10 and governed by the Compacts of Free Association represent a balance of  
11 interests, with the United States of America to provide financial and economic  
12 assistance, defense, and other services and benefits to the Freely Associated States  
13 and the Freely Associated States to provide the United States certain operating  
14 rights, denial of access and other matters of interest to the United States; and

15           **WHEREAS**, while the Board of Directors of the APIL extends our  
16 gratitude for the alliance of the Freely Associated States with the United States of  
17 America and the access to United States federal programs, infrastructure  
18 development, and financial and economic assistance through our respective

1 Compact of Free Association, this Board of Directors also recognizes that each of  
2 the Freely Associated States is a strategic partner to the United States, and this  
3 partnership is key to regional maritime security and United States' national  
4 security interests in the Pacific; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of the  
6 Marshall Islands, the United States of America also provides compensation for the  
7 loss of life, health, land, and resources due to 67 atomic and thermonuclear  
8 weapons tests that the United States conducted at Bikini Atoll and Enewetak Atoll,  
9 long lasting impacts of radiation on their communities, and the sacrifices that the  
10 Marshallese have made for the security of the United States, and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Marshallese people feel that the initial compensation by  
12 the US was found to be inadequate and the Marshall Islands continue to seek just  
13 compensation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Compacts of Free Association mandate renegotiation of  
15 certain terms following the fixed periods defined in the Compacts; in 2003,  
16 amendments to the Compacts with the Federated States of Micronesia and the  
17 Republic of the Marshall Islands extended financial and economic assistance for  
18 20 more years, set to expire in 2023, and in 2010, an amendment to the Compact  
19 with the Republic of Palau extended financial and economic assistance for 15  
20 more years, set to expire in 2024; these amendments also established trust funds to  
21 provide sustainable sources of revenue following the expiration of the financial  
22 and economic assistance; and

23 **WHEREAS**, with the expiration of the financial and economic assistance  
24 provisions looming, the United States of America began Compact of Free  
25 Association renegotiations to renew these provisions with the Freely Associated  
26 States in May of 2020 by initiating the first round of formal discussions with each  
27 of the Freely Associated States; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Compacts of Free Association renegotiations have now  
2   stalled and the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures would like to encourage  
3   attention to and formal proactive engagement in the renegotiations by the United  
4   States of America and the prioritization of a healthy, secure, and resilient Pacific;  
5   now, therefore,

6           **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association of  
7   Pacific Island Legislatures, 61<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, February 17-18, 2022, via ZOOM  
8   Conferencing, that the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association of Pacific  
9   Island Legislatures, hereby respectfully encourages the progression of its Compact  
10   of Free Association renegotiations with the Republic of Palau, the Federated States  
11   of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

12           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Pacific Island  
13   Legislatures President shall certify, and the Secretary shall attest to the adoption of  
14   this Resolution and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to His Excellency  
15   Joe Biden, President of the United States of America, and to the Chief Executives  
16   and the Presiding Legislative Officers of the member jurisdictions of the  
17   Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.**



**NELSON STEPHEN**  
**ACTING PRESIDENT**



**VINNIE SABLEN**  
**ACTING SECRETARY**

